

- 13 -

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A hairbrush comprising:
a body;
a panel secured to the body, the panel including bristle mounts and support legs arranged in a network defining openings for passage of an airstream through the panel, at least a portion of the network including bristle mounts and support legs arranged in a pattern in which each bristle mount has at least three support legs extending from it; and
a plurality of bristles, each bristle secured to one of the bristle mounts of the patterned portion of the network.
2. The hairbrush according to claim 1, wherein the patterned portion of the network includes first and second sets of bristle mounts and wherein the bristles include relatively thick bristles and relatively thin bristles, each of the relatively thick bristles secured to one of the bristle mounts of the first set, and clusters of the relatively thin bristles secured to the bristle mounts of the second set.
3. The hairbrush according to claim 2, wherein each of the clusters of relatively thin bristles is received in a recess defined by the associated bristle mount.
4. The hairbrush according to claim 1, wherein the patterned portion of the network includes first and second sets of bristle mounts and wherein each of the second set bristle mounts is secured to twice as many legs as each of the first set bristle mounts.
5. The hairbrush according to claim 4, wherein each of the first bristle mounts is secured to three legs and each of the second bristle mounts is secured to six legs.
6. The hairbrush according to claim 5, wherein each of the legs within the patterned portion of the network includes opposite ends respectively secured to a bristle

- 14 -

mount of the first and second set, and wherein each of the first bristle mounts within the patterned portion of the network is offset forwardly with respect to the associated second bristle mounts such that the first bristle mount and its associated legs form a tripod support structure.

7. The hairbrush according to claim 1, wherein the body includes a head portion having opposite sidewalls defining a central opening and wherein the panel extends across the central opening in an arcuate configuration.

8. The hairbrush according to claim 7, wherein the body head portion includes a retainer lip on each sidewall of the body head portion, and wherein the panel includes at least one holding tab on each of opposite sides thereof contacting the retainer lip.

9. The hairbrush according to claim 8 further including an insert having opposite sidewalls received in the central opening adjacent the sidewalls of the body head portion such that removal of the panel is prevented.

10. The hairbrush according to claim 9, wherein the body head portion further includes insert supports on each retainer lip for contact with the insert, and wherein gaps are defined between the insert supports for receipt of the panel holding tabs.

11. The hairbrush according to claim 1, wherein the panel is secured to the body in a substantially cylindrical configuration.

12. A hairbrush comprising:

a body;

a panel secured to the body, the panel including a plurality of openings to provide for passage of an airstream through the panel;

- 15 -

a plurality of first bristles each secured to the panel such that it is spaced apart from the other first bristles; and

a plurality of second bristles, the second bristles being grouped in clusters of bristles, each of the clusters being secured to the panel among the first bristles.

13. The hairbrush according to claim 12, wherein the panel includes bristle mounts and support legs arranged in a network defining the openings, at least a portion of the network including first and second sets of bristle mounts arranged in a pattern with the support legs such that each of the legs is respectively secured at opposite ends to a bristle mount of the first set and a bristle mount of the second set, and wherein each of the first bristles is on a first set bristle mount and each of clusters of second bristles is secured to a second set bristle mount.

14. A hairbrush comprising:

a body including a head portion and a handle portion, the head portion including opposite sidewalls defining a central opening;

a panel extending across the central opening of the body, the panel including bristle supports each having a central bristle mount and at least three legs extending outwardly from the bristle mount; and

at least one bristle secured to the bristle mount of each of the bristle supports.

15. The hairbrush according to claim 14, wherein the panel further includes a plurality of hubs, each leg of a bristle support being secured to a hub adjacent the associated bristle mount.

16. The hairbrush according to claim 15, wherein the panel further includes relatively thin bristles arranged in clusters at each of the hubs.

17. A hairbrush comprising:

- 16 -

a body;

a panel secured to the body in a substantially cylindrical configuration, the panel including bristle mounts and support legs arranged in a network defining openings for passage of an airstream through the panel, at least a portion of the network including bristle mounts and support legs arranged in a pattern in which each bristle mount is secured to at least three of the support legs; and

a plurality of bristles, each bristle secured to one of the bristle mounts of the patterned portion of the network; and

a relatively rigid reinforcing member adjacent the panel, the reinforcing member including a plurality of openings arranged to provide for substantial alignment between the openings of the reinforcement member and the openings of the panel.

18. The hairbrush according to claim 17, wherein the panel includes opposite ends and opposite side edges, the panel including interfitting tabs and slots adjacent the respective side edges for joining the side edges together.

19. The hairbrush according to claim 18, wherein the reinforcement member includes opposite ends and opposite side edges, the reinforcement member formed into a substantially cylindrical configuration defining a gap between the side edges, and wherein the panel is received adjacent the reinforcement member such that the joined side edges of the panel are located adjacent to the gap defined by the reinforcement member.

20. The hairbrush according to claim 19 further including an end cap engaging an end of the panel opposite the body.